

**Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A file system for storing data comprising:  
a plurality of storage devices, each storage device operative to store at least one copy of at least one file;

at least one location database comprising a map between a file identifier for each file and location information for each copy of the file represented by the file identifier;

at least one name database comprising a map between a file name and the file identifier referenced by the file name, each name database physically separate from the at least one location database; and

at least one client operative to

- (a) request a file identifier corresponding to a requested file name,
- (b) receive the file identifier mapped to the requested file name,
- (c) request location information corresponding to the received file identifier,
- (d) receive location information mapped to the received file identifier, and
- (e) access data using the location information.

17. (Original) A file system as in claim 16 wherein each file is stored as at least one file extent, the file identifier comprising a file handle.

18. (Original) A file system as in claim 16 wherein each file is represented in storage as an object and each file identifier is an object identifier.

19. (Original) A file system as in claim 16 wherein the client is further operative to access file metadata stored in the location database.

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20. (Original) A file system as in claim 16 wherein the client is further operative to send the file identifier and a new file name to at least one name database, thereby registering the new name for the file.